

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-20 are pending, including independent claims 1, 11, and 13-15. All claims have been rejected as obvious over Keller.

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 13 and 15, cancelled claims 5, 6 and 14, and corrected the dependency in claim 7.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time on December 15, 2005 for discussing the pending Office Action by telephone with Applicant's undersigned attorney. The amendments presented herein were discussed, and arguments in favor of patentability were presented. No agreement was reached. The substance of Applicant's arguments is set forth below with additional detail.

As background, Applicant's invention addresses a problem which arises from the storage of a large number of tracks (e.g., one hundred or more) on a recordable compact disk, so that it is difficult for the user to remember the track number of each of the tracks, and the user must inconveniently operate the up/down key many times to find and listen to a desired track. (See application at p. 1, lines 10-30.) Applicant's invention solves this problem in one aspect by managing the tracks on such a recordable medium in a user-friendly manner. In conventional systems for recording on a recordable medium such as a CD-R, a session is formed every time writing is performed but a user is not aware of the session organization. In Applicant's invention, the sessions are used effectively.

In claim 1, for example, the controller regards each session as a virtual disk, allocates a track number for each of the track files in each session in order of time of recording, and automatically plays back the tracks within a session in order of oldest time of recording to newest time of recording. The controller also displays a name of the virtual disk corresponding to the session containing the file being played back, the track number of the track, and a name of the track. Further, claim 1 has been amended to specify a particular playback operation according to one aspect of the invention. In particular, and with reference to Fig. 5 by way of example, playback is started with the latest (newest) session as the first virtual disk ("Disk 1" in Fig. 5); tracks in this session

are played back in order of oldest to newest ("playback order 2" in Fig. 5); and sessions are changed in order of latest (newest) to earliest (oldest) ("playback order 1" in Fig. 5). The example in Fig. 5 is described in more detail at p. 5, lines 6-20. With this playback operation, a user can easily find a desired track from the many tracks recorded on the recordable disk and play it back. Independent method claims 13 and 15 also have been amended to further specify this particular playback method.

Applicant submits that this specific playback operation is not disclosed in or suggested by Keller. Keller describes a compact disc recording device that stores a music library of sound tracks and includes a means for selecting sound tracks to be recorded on a compact disc (e.g., Abstract). A session in Keller is typically a group of sound tracks which have been previously assigned to that particular session (col. 15, line 68 to col. 16, line 2). Thus, a session can be formed by adding (or deleting) sound tracks at the time and option of the user so that the sound tracks in a session are not in time order (see, e.g., the "time" column in Fig. 8). In other words, unlike Applicant's independent claims 1, 13 and 15, Keller does not "allocate a track number for each of the track files in each session in order of time of recording" and therefore also does not "automatically play back the tracks in a session in order of oldest time of recording to newest time of recording."

Moreover, Keller clearly does not describe or suggest the specific playback operation now recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 15, i.e., starting playback with the latest session, playing back tracks in the session from oldest to newest, and changing sessions from newest to oldest.

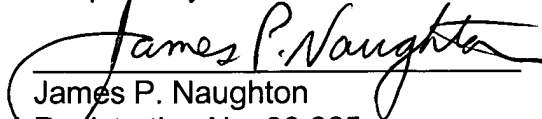
Claim 11 is directed to another aspect of the invention and takes advantage of the functionality of a CD changer to make it easier to navigate among sessions recorded on a single CD-R. As described in claim 11, the CD changer includes a next-disk key that is normally used for changing from a current CD to a next CD stored in the changer, and a previous-disk key that is normally used for changing from a current CD to a previous CD stored in the changer -- in other words, the normal next-disk and previous-disk keys in a conventional CD changer. In the embodiment of claim 11, however, each session on a CD-R is regarded as a separate virtual disk, and the next-disk and

previous-disk keys of the CD changer can be operated manually to change between the sessions recorded on a CD-R. Thus, rather than the next-disk and previous-disk keys being used in the normal way to change between different disks, the next-disk and previous-disk keys are used to change between sessions (as virtual disks) on a single CD-R. The embodiment of claim 11 also automatically plays back the tracks in a session in order of oldest to newest and displays the name of the virtual disk corresponding to the session containing the file being read. (See application, e.g., at p. 5, lines 21-31.)

This novel operation of claim 11 is not described or suggested in Keller or any other cited reference. The Examiner points to control keys 45 and 49 of Keller; however, these keys are not next-disk or previous-disk keys as recited in claim 11. Rather, those buttons in Keller are only "reverse track (button 45)" and "forward track (button 49)," as described at col. 5, lines 30-31. More particularly, Keller does not describe or suggest using conventional next-disk and previous-disk keys in a CD changer to change between sessions on one CD-R.

In summary, Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. If the Examiner believes this application still is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at 312-321-4723.

Respectfully submitted,


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